

[SRP file copy]

10-12-1984

DWP—

Last night when John & Elaine arrived I was listening to Janet Baker's performance of Darlie von der Erde. As soon as they came in, I immediately turned off the Mable and put on Verdi's Four Seasons (at John's request). Ben Pastor Bissel and the two deacons arrived and now it is Friday morning and I have put Darlie von der Erde back into the machine and will pick up when I was before my evening's visitors arrived. I was delighted to see them and the evening was very pleasant but I do like my hours alone at my desk. As I frequently do, I forced myself, yesterday morning, to spend the morning (and sometimes the early afternoon) organizing and sorting through "the past twenty years." I am making splendid progress and am feeling very good about the accomplishment. Three of the primary piles into which I sort tons of paper are: SRP personal, PN-I, PN-II. I am preparing an updated edition of my "green volume" of family history -- much has been learned/uncovered since the publication of that volume. I am also preparing a volume (PN-II) on WSP/HLRP and their descendants -- this volume will contain the primary documents and will have to be updated and revised almost as soon as it is completed. I expect to "bring forth" both volumes next year some time. In the morning yesterday and was sorting and sifting, I came across an extra Xerox copy of Aunt Edna's book on the Loomis and Spive families and also an extra copy of Elsie Loomis' "The Descendants of Joseph Loomis..." I packaged both volumes and sent them to the very excellent Southern California Genealogical Library in Los Angeles. On ELL's dedication page to Aunt Louie and HLRP, I wrote: "10-11-1984 Donated to the Southern California Genealogical Library in memory of Edna L. Loomis (1885-1976) by S. Robert Powell, Carbondale, PA 18407." On the flyleaf of the Elsie Loomis volume, I wrote: "New copy of The Descendants of Joseph Loomis... by Elsie

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Loomis was donated to the Southern California Genealogical Library in memory of Theron orsemum Loomis (#8120, p. 435 herein) on October 11, 1984 by S. Robert Powell (Carbondale, PA 18407)." Such pleasure it gave me to mail the package. I'm sure you can imagine how much joy it would give Aunt Edna were she to know that her splendid book is now in wide circulation. Copies of ELL's book as well as other brain family histories are also now part of the collections of the New York Public Library, the Mormon's astounding archive in Salt Lake City, the Library of Congress, and other places as well. One cannot rely on chance & luck in the transmission of such documents from one generation to the next. One cannot rely solely on family members to transmit such documents from one generation to the next. Every time I think about the destruction of virtually all of Queen Victoria's personal journals (as you know, she wrote daily) by one of her daughters (who felt that such journals were too personal to be preserved) it makes me want to rush to that daughter's grave and scream at her earthly remains. Speaking of earthly remains, I like the idea of the cross buds around the tombstones in Eekdale Cemetery. When are they to be planted? Shall I plant them as soon as they arrive or shall I wait for you. What is your pleasure? You will, I'm sure, be pleased with the work that has been done by John & me in and around Eekdale Cemetery, and also on the East and West lawns. What a difference! Thank you for the reference from the July/August 84 issue of The Genealogical Helper about Northeastern Pennsylvania. Thank you, in addition, for the copy of the text of "A Christmas Memory" and for the wonderful article on Eleanor Roosevelt at Val-Kill. I have not yet read the article on Norman politicians by Lionel Casson. The replacement copy of page 2 of your 9/18-19/1984 letter has been pasted down. Thank you. Perhaps there is room on the Capote tape for a Stinson Watz or two, as arranged by Webern, Schönberg & Berg? Now I shall go see Pastor Bissel. Regard — S. Robert